

18 December 2005:

Dear Family and Friends of the 4ID G6 Section:

Greetings from Kuwait! With the exception of 3 or 4 soldiers, the G6 section has completely deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 5-07. Currently the section has soldiers in three separate countries, with MAJ Hardy and CPT Dinerman in Qatar working to ensure all of our tactical links are configured and established properly, MAJ Torres is leading an all-star group consisting of CPT Sheard, CW2 Wimmer, MSG Nardecchia, SPC Mauatute as well as a team from the NETOPS section working hard to ensure that all of our signal equipment is functioning properly at the Division and Brigade Level prior to the individual brigades head out up North. Our NETOPS section lead by MAJ Darryl Stewart, CPTs Morey and STACK, CW2 Studer and CW2 Carrasquillo, SFC Galyon and SGT Heisner have been working to ensure that all of our new JNN equipment is functioning properly, which with any new equipment can be a challenge. The third group consisting of MAJs Laroque, Worden and Martin, Nancy McDonald, SFC Houston and SSG Jensen is already in Iraq, working hard coordinating with the 3ID and Corps G6 sections and preparing to establish our tactical network as soon as we arrive. Everyone is working extremely hard and their efforts are paying huge dividends to posture the Division early on for success.

With the exception of folks catching the occasional cold or hacking cough known as the "Buerling crud" everyone is well and eager to deploy forward. We have had to wait a few extra days before we could leave Kuwait so that the 3d Infantry Division could monitor the Iraqi election process properly. From all accounts, the election went extremely well and will help set the stage for our eventual return back to Ft Hood and to our families. Once we get to Iraq, our soldiers will finally be able to establish a more permanent set of living quarters and routine, instead of living out of our duffle bags in cramped temporary facilities. I will tell you that this second time around, the facilities that we are encamped on offer much better support than the last time, with hot and cold running water, real latrine facilities and a larger PX. The dining facility leaves a little to be desired, although they have had to accommodate the majority of the division at one time.

As a section, along with the rest of the Division staff, we will begin our movement forward to Baghdad this week. By the end of the month, we should all be located in one location at Camp Liberty, working to prepare for the Division's assumption of the mission from the 3d Infantry Division. Once this happens, our clock really begins ticking and with each passing day will lead us one step closer to returning home.

My plan is to send out one update a week, pending any competing demands from on-going operations. As we move forward, know that we are all safe and have been highly trained for this mission. I am extremely proud of the job that our soldiers are doing and the strength of the team that we have assembled. Their efforts have not gone un-noticed by the Division's senior leadership as well. I just ask that the FRG continue to work

together and closely with each other to help make this deployment and separation as smooth as possible. Please be patient, as the FRG and rear detachment is small and a little overworked. Together they will do what they can to answer each and every one of your questions.

Sincerely

LTC Douglas Babb
ACoS, G6, 4ID